May 24th 64

Dearest Companion of my bosom & Emma & May the joy of my life I thought I'd write one more & before I left civilization. we have been progressing slowly since we started for Idaho we was in St. Louis 10 days before we started & this is 37 days since we started & it will take three more days to get half way. the last 22 days we moved 11 miles, but we built another boat that carries 100 tons & the river is rising slowly & we are traveling slowly. tomorrow we will reach fort randall (if no bad luck) which will be the last point of mailing letters until we reach our place of destination. I have been well ever since I left you & hope you, children, & friends are enjoying the same great blessing of heaven. the rest of the boys are all well but Alec he has had the measles very bad

but he is able to be up now, & I think he will get along without any trouble, we are all getting very lazy doing nothing. but when we get to the mines we will try to make up for lost time. I chopped wood 4 days & planted corn 2. that made me feel first rate. this is the beautifulest country in the world but I could not be induced to live in it. there is I believe 100 miles back from the river without a stick of timber. some of the boys went 20 & it was the same. one vast stretch of prairie as far as the eye could see, & the wind when it blows, one can hardly stand up & that is nearly all the time. but it is as healthy as ever was. I want you to be of good cheer & keep up something that will make the time pass off swift, as 2 or 3 years will soon be gone it is almost 8 years since we joined our hearts & hands & it seems to be but a few days ago, we are in a position almost as bad as an man in prison on the boat traveling slowly & cannot get off from morning till night only when they wooding & we are anxious to get through to

know what we can do, but time passes fast
a day is but the twinkling of an eye a week soon
passes by, a month is soon gone, a year will
quickly glide by. & look forward with glorious
anticipations, the day that we will meet & have
another meltings to live better, love sweeter
than we have ever done, & if I'm blessed
with luck & make something we will fix our
selves where we can enjoy life, & raise our
blessed children in the way they should
go. Now we are about to launch out of
the lines of civilization into a hostile country
& I may have to fight the wicked red man of
the forest (which I will willingly do if necessary)
& if, by his ruthless hand I fall, I trust I will
fall full length Zion-wards, & then when
we meet there will be no sickness nor
sorrow, no pain nor death, there, there will
be no parting there. what a blessed hope the
believers hope is, of one day ar other outriding
the storms & troubles of this wicked & fast
perishing world, & ascending to heaven &
immortal glory.

I found Charley in St Louis as I expected & found him to be a gentleman I had seen him now for 4 weeks as their load got behind us & has not come up yet, there has 3 carts passed us for Idahoe & 5 or 6 behind yet, & if we all get together, which I think we will, we will make the red man skedaddle, as they are all loaded with soldiers, for the mountains. I am now 2000 miles from you, but it seems as if it is but a little ways, I feel at home & satisfied let me be where I will, but dear Sally If I get back again I'll end my days with you & the babys, if I keep my health I fear nothing else, I'll make something to enjoy in our old days, give my best respects & love to our fathers & Mothers & all inquiring friends (if any there be) & believe me to be your kind & loving husband until death's cold icy hand severs our uncertain lifes & we are bid bye beneath the clods of the valley

P. L. Harris to
Sally & babies